

T News Letter **TDARS**

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 305

Mar—Apr. 2022

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- March 16 Main Construction Competition at LWVH incl. Beginners' Award
- March 23 Portable & Contest Planning for 2022 at LWVH
- March 30 Annual General Meeting at LWVH 8 pm. (Agenda Page 3)
- April 6 Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM).
- April 13 Kevin & Lauren Richardson—Mega-cycle for charity. LWVH + Webex
- April 20 Preparation for Marconi Day (23 Apr.) weekend at Tywyn (LWVH)
- April 22-24 MARCONI DAY AT TYWYN—GB8MD (Fri. to Sat.,) M0JZH co-ordinator
- April 27 E-M-E (Moonbounce) presentation by Peter G4URT. LWVH + Webex
- May 4 Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM).
- May 11 1st FOXHUNT. Start 7:30pm LWVH. 144.600 MHz FM—local (on foot)
- May 18 Members' Mobile Radio installations—car park LWVH (provisional venue)
- May 25 GX3ZME activity in the LW Village Field. (behind the Huntsman pub)
- June 1 Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM).

Committee Meetings via Webex Online :

For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.

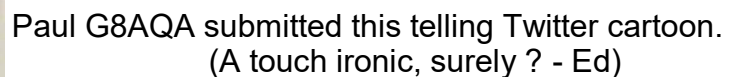
For "Beyond Exams" scheme (Club or Individual) —enquiries to Graham G7LMF

For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.

Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: Contact Graham G7LMF training@tdars.org.uk

Editorial

The club is over 50 years old, and thriving, despite all the problems of the last couple of years. **MIV** (Martyn G3UKV)



Comment by Paul G8AQA: “FYI, Heather (M0HMO) is working on the monitoring and control software for the beacon. “



Committee: Graham G7LMF; Ian M0IRP; Village Hall Committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO; QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist Curator: Chris 2E0EOH; Trophies/Certs: Martyn G3UKV.

Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING HELD NORMALLY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL OR ONLINE (Webex); PLEASE CHECK FRONT PAGE LISTING FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS.

Please note: A current membership card may be required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

Notice of the T&DARS Annual General Meeting 8pm 30 March 2022 at Little Wenlock Village Hall. (Assuming no new Govt. restrictions)

AGENDA :

- 1) Apologies**
- 2) Minutes of previous AGM held online 31 March 2021 and Matters Arising**
- 3) Chairman's Report**
- 4) Treasurer's Report & presentation of accounts 2021/22. Subscription rates 2022/23**
- 5) Appointment of Auditors 2022/23**
- 6) Election of Society Officers and committee**
- 7) Presentation of Awards and Trophies**

The replacement **Beginners' Construction Trophy** will be presented at the AGM, always assuming there has been an appropriate entry two weeks earlier. When the competition has taken place in the past 6 years, there have been no beginners entries on 3 occasions. So if you're new to the construction side of the hobby, and have not entered previously, there is an opportunity to win this brand new, smart trophy.



John M0XJA and Tony M0TZM have offered to **activate the club station GX3ZME (or GX6ZME)** on the HF or V/UHF bands—so do give them a call if you hear them.



Tony, with his shiny new callsign, recently requested a new **TDARS sweat shirt**, complete with embroidered logo and M0TZM. Others have liked the idea of a **club baseball cap**. These are available, but are not ordered singly. So if you would like to order such items, please let Paul M0PLA know ASAP. Prices to be confirmed.

Now that Government Covid-19 restrictions have mostly been lifted, we are going to run local **DF Hunts ('Foxhunts') once again on 2 metres**. (144.600MHz, FM). They take place in Little Wenlock, with initial transmission at 7:30pm BST. The first two events have been arranged for May 11 and June 8th, and 'the fox' (Martin 2E0TRO) will be within walking distance of the club premises (LWVH). Suitable HB9CV antennas and attenuator kits are available to borrow from the club, but it is advisable to borrow these a week or two in advance of the DF Hunts to familiarise yourself with their operation. Speak to Don M0TBQ for a loan.

The Tuesday/Wed/Thurs series of **2022 UK Activity Contests (UKAC)** are already under way, but it is never too late to join the series. Full details and rules are available here: <https://www.rsgbcc.org/vhf/> . TDARS entrants now include *Dave G0CER, Martyn G3UKV, Don M0TBQ, Simon G0UFE, Tony M0TZM, Ken G3YKI, John M0XJA and Chris 2E0YYB*. Even if you only come on occasionally, every score entered can lift the TDARS score. Currently we are holding on to 10th place in the 'local clubs' overall table, so why not give it a bash ? Guildford & DRS are hot on our heels in that overall results table

Various measures to improve **Webex online presentations** to take place have been taken by Committee members, but it is by no means a simple operation to combine a live meeting at LWVH with a Webex 2-way event with home-based participants. Meanwhile, the Committee have decided to hold their First-Wednesday-in-the-Month meetings via Webex for the foreseeable future; these have worked really successfully with around 7 members participating. It saves time and room-hire costs (and vehicle fuel !)

Don't forget the **International Marconi Day (IMD) portable extravaganza** in April (22-24th)., being organised by John M0JZH & Co. GB8MD SES has already been Booked. Remember to bring your bucket & spade (or kite?) to this seaside location in Tywyn—less than 90 miles (say 2 hours) from Telford !!

Technical Books Library, Link sent to the TDARS Reflector (06/03/2022)

—by Dave G0CER:

1930s and newer- mostly American, but there are others.

All downloadable

[http://www.tubetubebooks.org/technical_books_online.htm#Radio%20\(transmitters,%20receivers,%20design,%20repair...\)](http://www.tubetubebooks.org/technical_books_online.htm#Radio%20(transmitters,%20receivers,%20design,%20repair...))

Editor's Comment: An amazing (mostly historic) source of original texts, both professional and amateur radio/electronics. The initial link is usually a contents listing for the publication, but a further click opens up the full text, from a few MBytes and up to 150+ MB size download for a Handbook!

~+

Feb. ARRL (USA) CW DX Contest Report sent to the Contest Reflector

—By John G4IRN

My report to the UK Contest Reflector:

Since I only have a Butternut HF2V antenna up at the moment, any activity in the ARRL DX CW contest over the weekend was going to be limited to 80m or 40m, so I opted to do a 40m SO HP entry.

Overall activity from NA on 40m was less than I expected, though conditions on the Friday/Saturday night weren't great - west coast stations were very weak and the rarer VE provinces were conspicuous by their absence.

I kicked off CQ'ing at the start of the contest with a reasonable hour of 136 Qs, but things nose dived after that with less than a dozen QSOs in each of the last three hours before sunrise on Saturday.

I kept an ear on the radio on Saturday afternoon and could hear a few LP west coast stations working JA's but couldn't raise any of them. By Saturday night I decided to take some sleep and woke at 4am - conditions were much better to the west coast and my CQs solicited several new states, though there was huge auroral flutter on the more westerly stations which made copy difficult.

On Sunday afternoon I lost connectivity to my remote station, (see later article—Ed) it seems there was a loss of power up there. I daren't go up there until the winds have died down, it can be quite inhospitable up there and on the route over there. So the last QSO was at 07:35 on Sunday morning. Total operating time: 11h 16m.

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## Gas Soldering Irons –By Peter G4URT

I've never really had much success soldering the centre pins of N type plugs (and in the very distant past PL259s) using soldering irons, even the larger Weller 100w types.

It seemed as though I had to apply heat for quite sometime and that in turn lead to melting / burning of the insulation – maybe it was just me? Early on though I discovered the joys of using a butane gas powered mini blowtorch to extract the old centre conductor from the pin or soldering the new conductor on.



[The current 'URT gas iron . ]

1/ they were cheap and  
2/ they all had to be lit using a lighter which is a pain.

[Peter's advice after the Editor ('UKV) commented that he still has a Maplin's gas soldering iron for outside and portable station purposes:

**5/ Be prepared to throw it some distance ! ]**

## ***RADIO QUIZ***—Part 1 –By Paul M0PNN

- Contin. Next page >>>>>

**Peter G4URT, John G4IRN, Paul G8AQA, Dave G0CER, Paul M0PNN, Shabaz**  
**Next edition May/June 2022**  
**Can YOU contribute something?— Results in a better Newsletter !**

- ## Answers on Back Page

Although this setup works well, since the remote site only ‘dials out’ to my home IP address, my operation is restricted to home use only. Ideally, I would like to remote control the radio from anywhere. I recently picked up a Flex 6500 SDR transceiver to use at the remote site but found it wouldn’t work due to the user authentication system employed (‘SmartLink’). The radio is accessed using a PC application (SmartLink) which looks for a Flex radio on the same network subnet. When the Flex is switched on\*, it sends out network Layer-3 broadcast packets saying ‘I am here’ – once SmartLink and the radio establish a connection, the user is authenticated and can operate. However – broadcast packets at Layer-3 do not cross network subnets and as previously stated, my home and remote site are on different subnets. Thus, the Flex wouldn’t connect.





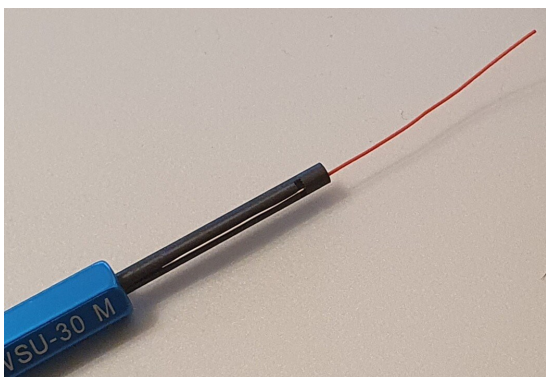
### Answers to Quiz on Pages 5-6

- 1) The Bathtub key was developed for operation in RAF bombers because it was thought that high levels of aviation fuel could be ignited by the sparks from the Morse key onboard the aircraft and this might lead to an explosion.
- 2) On or near the 25th of April Marconi's Birthday.
- 3) A. Club station operating portable from Jersey in the Channel Islands.
- 4) 50 Ohms.
- 5) GQRP Club.
- 6) The abbreviation S.D.R stands for Software Defined Radio.
- 7) Commercial Radio Teletype RTTY stations and news feeds for Broadcast radio stations e.g., Tass, Voice of America. The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" contains all the letters of the alphabet.
- 8) Low Noise Block.
- 9) D. 2004.
- 10) 60/40 Tin/Lead.
- 11) Mike G3JKX been a member of the RSGB for over 65 years..
- 12) The Club's Short Contest call is G3Z.
- 13) D. 25 to 30 Amps.
- 14) A. 2009 Telford and District Amateur radio society celebrated Its 50<sup>th</sup> year.
- 15) A. Discovery of a new type of Pulsar that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation.

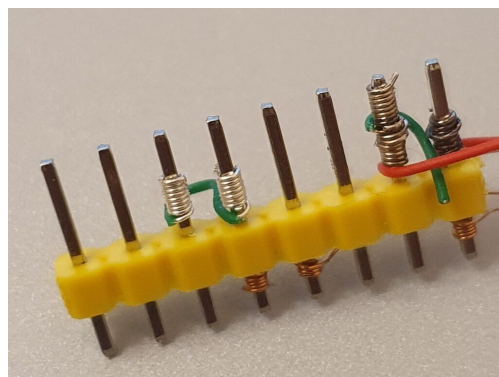
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**Shabaz** has sent various practical designs and ideas to the TDARS groups.io Reflector. Your Editor has taken the liberty of copying one of these below, with date for reference:

(12/03/22) 'My first Wire Wrapping: Thought I'd give it a shot, having seen it, but never attempted it before. This was with a simple manual too !



I like it ! Definitely going to use this technique on occasion I think.'



The aliexpress search term is **30 awg wrapping wire**, this is a photo of it. It has very soft insulation, can be stripped just by pushing a fingernail against it, although the wrapping tool has a built-in stripping blade.



There is another type with teflon-like hard insulation, called Kynar or Tefzel wire, that's a lot more expensive since it's silver-plated, and is available from Farnell and RS etc., not available from Aliexpress. That type is ideal for non-wire-wrapping tasks too because it can be soldered without the insulation melting.

The photo above shows both types. The purple is the aliexpress soft insulation wire, about £3 for the roll, and the red is the hard insulation Kynar/Tefzel wire. As Paul 'AQA says, the overall diameter including the insulation is about 0.5mm, that's for the hard insulation. The softer insulation is 0.6mm overall, not much difference basically.

The wire wrapping tool is from **aliexpress** (about £12), but it's also on Amazon for £20. The search term is **WSU-30 tool**.'